



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 13th October 2023
Multiple page issue.

Headteacher's Blog

'Hand in hand together we will become resilient, respectful and responsible citizens of our community and the wider world.'

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Whittingham Primary School,

Another busy week and a packed, multiple page issue of the 'Blog' this week. There are a number of events planned but just some reminders below (more events can be found on our website calendar <https://whittingham.eschools.co.uk/website>):

Parenting Workshop Friday 20th October 10-2 (light lunch provided)

Parenting Workshop / Support session about managing behaviour. See poster for full details It will take place on Friday 20th October 10.00 - 2.00 with a light lunch included. All attendees will be put in a 'prize draw' for a free half term of After School Club Tuesday night provision for their child!

After School Clubs -

We are having a good response to most clubs (currently choir has a low level of interest). Please send your expressions of interest to me as soon as possible.

I had asked for families to guide me with the pricing for these clubs. So far one person has suggested a price of £3.00 but I would appreciate further opinion please.

Early Bird Club

We will trial Early Bird club for the duration of November and December (Autumn 2) - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8-8.45 option 2 - no food provided- £3.00 per day per child.If you haven't already, please confirm your place with me. Charges will be put on school money later.

Hand Foot and Mouth

We have a number of children in Early Years and Class 1 who have hand, foot and mouth. We have checked medical guidance and as long as children are not feeling unwell and the blisters have not popped/ are weeping they are allowed to attend school as normal.

Jess, the dog

As most of you know, the children over the past 3 years have taken comfort and gained responsibility while caring for Jess, our 'therapy' dog.

Please be reassured she is up to date with medications, insurance and is of a sound nature. Initially, she spends more time with KS 2 children and as the children get older and happier around dogs she will spend time with the younger children.

There is a full risk assessment for her being in school and which can be provided upon request.

Jess does not attend school full time but generally comes in on Tuesdays and Fridays but there may be a change of days if I am attending meetings on her usual 'working' days. There will be a picture on the main school entrance when she is in school for your reference and when she is not working with the children she has food, water and a place to sleep in my office.

We currently are unaware of any children with allergies to dogs but if your child has an allergy or develops one please let school know.

Well done Mrs Lewis

As many of you will remember, over the last year Mrs Lewis has been completing a school based teacher training qualification. She has just passed her final stage with flying colours so huge congratulations!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me by email, telephone or while I am on Gate Duty if you have any comments, suggestions or queries. Parents Evening this week will also be an opportunity to speak to staff and complete our parent survey too.

Best wishes,

Belinda Athey - Headteacher.



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Wear Yellow for Young Minds

As our families and staff past and present will know (as well as feedback during our highly regarded Ofsted inspections) we support our children's mental health and wellbeing every day but it was particularly fun wearing yellow to show our support for Young Minds.

Our School Day

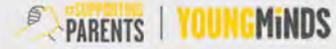
Following guidance from the Department of Education schools were guided to ensure that the school day is 32.5 hours. We trialed this last year but this email is just a reminder that from September 2023 the whole school day (Nursery - Year 6) is 8.45 a.m. until 3.15p.m.

This means that children should be in their class from 8.40a.m. and the side gate will be locked at 8.45a.m. so that we can start morning activities safely and to avoid being locked in on our school site!

If you arrive at school when the side gate is locked please go to the main school entrance.

We are currently working with the bus companies to ensure that buses are away before 8.40a.m. as we do this please continue to wait until all buses have pulled away before crossing the carpark unless a member of staff says it is safe to do so.

Questions to ask your child



What things are you looking forward to?

Is there anything you want to talk about?

When was the last time you were very happy?

What makes you feel calm?

How are you finding things at school at the moment?

What difficulties are you facing now?

What can I do to help?

Where is a place you feel safe?

What things would you like to do in the future?

Would it be helpful if we planned each day together?

Do you have any worries about the coronavirus?

Where in our home do you feel like you can have your own space?

What are you worried about when you lie in bed and can't sleep?

Can you show me what you like about gaming?

How do you feel about things changing?

What do you think could help you to feel better?

What have you enjoyed about today?

Use of School Grounds

As you will know if you have had children in school last year we change our code of conduct to reflect daylight hours in Spring/ Summer (8.30-8.30) and Autumn/ Winter (8.30 -4.00).

Our Autumn/ Winter Code of Conduct is attached and also please note, following manufacturers guidelines we have had to put minimum age restrictions on the outdoor gym equipment is for KS2 children upwards and the newest climbing frame is for KS1 upwards unless it is being used by school staff in a specific activity or lesson.

We welcome children whose families have signed the Code of Conduct using the equipment but after school toilets and other indoor facilities are not available as these need to be cleaned thoroughly for the children the next day.

If there are work vans or workers on site at weekends or holidays then the school site needs to remain out of bounds for the safety of everyone concerned.

Keeping Safe
I am the CEOP and Operation Encompass trained member of staff if you are concerned about anything online or this website is also very helpful
<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>
or face to face - <https://www.operationencompass.org>



Child Exploitation and Online Protection

If you need to hide this site quickly, just click here



Supporting children through key adults

Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online?

Make a report to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors

Should I make a report to CEOP? →

If you're worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating online, let CEOP know.

What happens when I make a report? →

One of our experienced Child Protection Advisors will be there to make sure you get the help that you need.

How can CEOP help me? →

Online abuse affects many children and young people every day, CEOP has helped thousands of people in need of support.



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PARENTING WORKSHOP

We are pleased to have the expertise of Jayne Saul on our Governing Body. Jayne has worked in a range of settings in social care from working with young mums to now being a team manager for Build a Future, Children's Education and Skills in Newcastle. She has kindly offered to run an informal yet informative workshop for families (extended family members and members of the wider community are very welcome) on Friday 20th October 10-2 in school.

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided so please let school know if you are able to come by Wednesday 18th October so we can arrange catering for this (Thank you Mrs Arkle!)

Everyone who attends will receive a ticket to enter a prize draw, the prize being a free child care club, after school club or early bird club place for each week in November and December! Please see the aims of the session below which will be made relevant for young children and babies and as well as teenagers and young adults!

Aims of this session:

To support parents to develop a better understanding of why children behave the way they do

Explore the different experiences of the group

Look at strategies to manage difficult behaviour and promote positive behaviours

Suggest new strategies to support children and young people

Highlight the support that is available to parents and caregivers

PTA PRESENTS



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DISCO

All children from Whittingham C of E Primary School are invited to our Autumn School Disco.

On Friday 20th October from 5.00p.m. -6.30p.m. for the whole school and from 6.30- 7.00p.m. for Classes 2 and 3.

All children that attend our school are welcome. Seasonal costumes may be worn.

Children in Nursery and Reception class must have an adult to stay with them for the duration of the disco.

Entry fee is £4 per person payable by Monday 16th October.

Please send a labelled envelope into school with the child's(ren's) name in correct change by Monday 16th October to confirm your place and let the office know if there are any change to collection details.

Hot dogs, drinks, glo sticks etc will be available to purchase on the night.

THE MORE
YOU BRING,
THE MORE
YOU RAISE!

HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE



Whittingham
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This week the children in school will be given an Air Ambulance Bag to take home and fill hopefully over the half term holiday.

**By bringing into school
bags and bag of unwanted...**

**CLOTHING
BLANKETS
TOWELS**

We also collect

MOBILES

INK/TONER CARTRIDGES

Please bring bags back to school on the morning of Friday 10th November.



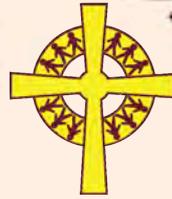
www.greatnorthairambulance.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1092204 Registered Company No. 4436859





Join Us !



Whittingham
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Harvest

FESTIVAL

Please join Whittingham C of E Primary School in St Bartholomew's Church on Thursday 26th October at 1.30p.m.

We would also appreciate before the day any donations of tins, packets or non perishable food items for us to create a Harvest display in school and to help us support our Early Years class charity - Alnwick District Food Bank.



**NON
SCHOOL**

**U N I F O R M
D A Y**



On Friday 24th November the PTA are asking that all children wear non uniform and donate a raffle or tombola prize.

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**ALL DONATIONS WILL BE USED
AT THIS YEARS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS
...FAYRE...**



Parent Teacher Association



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CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

Reception to Year 6 classes are invited to stay in school for a Christmas Movie Night on **Friday 8th December (3.15 - 5.15)** to raise money for the PTA.

There will be a choice of three different Christmas Movies (one will be aimed specifically at the younger children and children who may find sitting through a movie hard and need short movement breaks etc) which the children will choose beforehand.

The cost per child will be £3. The children will already be wearing Christmas themed clothing (see separate poster for details) so do not need to bring a change of clothes but they will need to bring a packed tea / snacks and a drink.

If you wish for your child to attend please send the exact money in a labelled envelope with the name of the child/children attending and addressed to The PTA by Friday 1st December. (If your child attends Lego Club they will not be charged for that evening).

If someone other than usual is picking them up please contact the office to let them know earlier in the day.



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On **Friday 8th December** the children will be asked to come into school in non uniform / Christmas clothing **and donate £1** to raise money for the PTA.